

## Learning Skills Activity Description

### Description of Activity:

There is an activity to review each of the 6 learning skills: Responsibility, Organization, Independent Work, Collaboration, Initiative, and Self-Regulation. Students need to understand what these skills are, how they demonstrate them and what difference it will make to their success in any class.

### How to:

See if they can name the 5 learning skills that they are evaluated on that appears on their report card. Ask them if they know how these skills will make a difference in their mark. Review each of the learning skills by having them participate in the activities and discussing them afterwards.

You can conduct the activities one or two per class period or take one class to try all the activities. You could have groups rotate through the different activities or separate the groups to try one activity each and then share what they got out of it with the class.

See instructions for conducting each activity below.

### Materials:

You will require the following materials for these specific activities:

- ☐ Responsibility - no materials required
- ☐ Organization - Copies of several different styles of day planners.
- ☐ Independent Work - copies of the origami instructions + paper to fold
- ☐ Collaboration - a bucket or bag of styrofoam balls
- ☐ Initiative - sheets of large poster size paper, markers
- ☐ Self-regulation - copies of Assessment Questionnaire

Evaluation: Copies of the Learning Skills Exit Card

### Resources:

Growing Success Document (see pg 17 for chart) available at website:

<http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/policyfunding/growSuccess.pdf>

### Recommendations:

You could continue on this line with an additional lesson on goal setting. Some ideas can be found at: <http://goalsettingfor students.com> and [www.teachingmoments.com](http://www.teachingmoments.com)

## **Instructions for conducting each activity:**

### **Responsibility Activity** : Role Playing

Students, in groups of about 4, will have 3 min to create a 30 second (or less) skit of each of the following scenarios:

- a) a worst case scenario of lacking responsibility in school
- b) a good realistic example of showing responsibility in school

### **Organization Activity**: Using a Planner

Organize students into groups preferably with students of different levels together. Have students first share how they stay organized in their life (especially with schoolwork) with others in the group. They should discuss what they find they need to remember the most. They should also discuss what they think they need to do more to be organized with school work especially.

Discuss as a class the problem of meeting due dates, remembering homework, completing assignments, etc. and the value of using a day planner. Ask them to comment on the idea that taking the time to stay organized with a planner can save time in the long run. Do they agree or disagree with this statement.

Give each group examples of several different styles of day planners. Each student should choose one page and fill it out for their own lives in the time frame and with the amount of detail it is designed for. If you want to allow them to use their electronic devices (cell phone, iPod, etc) to find an app for a day planner you could try this. It might even become useful to them. They should then discuss (or write on the back of the planner sheet) why they would use a planner, what and when they record in the planner and how it would help them prioritize and stay organized. They could add suggestions of how they could use a planner better.

### **Independent Work** - Origami Folding

This activity will reinforce the importance of following instructions. Students are asked to follow the instruction sheet to create an origami boat or bird. You will need to pre-cut 6X6" squares for the bird. The boat needs regular sized paper. Rulers could be used to make strong creases.

### **Collaboration** - Lift the Pail

Students are challenged to work together (collaborate) to keep a pail full of ping pong or styrofoam balls in the air using only their feet as they sit in a circle - for as long as possible. You could make it more challenging by not allowing them to communicate.

### **Initiative** - Graffiti

This is a "graffiti" activity. Groups of students are given a large sheet of paper and markers. They are to write the word "initiative" on the paper (at the top or in the middle). They are to express through words or drawings what it means to show initiative. You may have to give them a definition of what the word means from the dictionary. They can use examples of showing initiative at school, at home, at work or in the community. They can also show what the result of taking initiative might be.

### **Self-Regulation**

This activity is a self-assessment survey. Handout the survey or create it as a questionnaire on Moodle.